

Louise Heath – Conference Presentation Abstract

"I don't have time for Literacy!"

Empowering Secondary Teachers to incorporate literacy in their teaching

In this presentation, Louise will explore the issues facing Literacy Coordinators when they are engaging with time-poor subject specialists to implement literacy strategies to improve outcomes for all students, not just those within literacy intervention programmes. Drawing upon her experience in two academically high-achieving schools in Western Australia and supervising Teacher Education students when on placement, she will explore the different ways that you can develop and grow a school culture of literacy, both in and outside of the classroom.

Louise will look at how you can use existing data, such as WACE and NAPLAN, to inform a whole school strategy and engage school leaders and teachers to consider how literacy can improve student outcomes across all subject areas. She will also explore specific activities, or 'takeaways', that teachers can easily embed into their lesson planning and curriculum documentation. These activities are tried and tested by different subject specialists within the schools Louise has worked in and have been explored at Statewide Services Literacy Coordinators' Meet Ups.

This presentation will also consider the challenges faced by Literacy Coordinators, often described as "the loneliest job in the school" by those who have held and continue to hold the position. It's a role that often is balanced alongside a teaching load and literacy intervention, which leads to it being misunderstood by other teachers as being "just for the kids with diagnosed conditions". Louise will also consider how challenging the role can be for teachers from other countries or states where literacy is everyone's responsibility and government agencies, such as Ofsted in the United Kingdom, expect to see literacy and numeracy embedded across the curriculum.